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"T is one of the principal

errors of our time that

the Church ought to be

separated from the State,"

stated Pope

U.S. AND THE PIUS IX

VATICAN in 1864 in

his historic

"Syllabus of

Errors"; and a few years

ago, a leading Catholic writer in the United States de-

scribed separation as a

"negative, ill-defined, basic-

ally un-American formula."

This Catholic view is in

sharp contrast with the

American tradition which

found classic expression in

Jefferson's words that the

First Amendment to the

Constitution was intended to

erect "a wall of separation

between Church and State,"

a view which was upheld in

numerous decisions of the

U.S. Supreme Court.

It is not only in the light of

this controversy between Ca-

tholic doctrine and constitu-

tional law, however, that Presi-

dent Truman's appointment

of General Clark as the first

U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican

and the almost immediate with-

drawing of the appointment

need be interpreted. It should

be remembered that President

Roosevelt had already exposed

himself to severe criticism

when, in 1939, he sent the steel

magnate, Myron C. Taylor, to

Rome as his "personal repre-

sentative." Then, as well as in

the election campaign of 1948,

this form of indirect recogni-

tion of the Vatican as a tem-

poral power was denounced as

an infringement of a jealousy

guarded principle.

It is an undeniable fact, on

the other hand, that the Va-

catican is recognized as a sover-

eing State by most countries,

with mutual diplomatic repre-

sentatives, and that the un-

official personal representative

of the U.S. President has an

opposite number in the form

of an Apostolic Delegate at

Washington. But it appears

now that the President would

have to overcome strong op-

position if he persisted in con-

ferring diplomatic status on

his representative, which would

be automatically followed by

the appointment to Washington

of a Nunzio with his traditional

privilege of being the dozen

of the diplomatic corps. With

presidential elections on the

horizon, it may be expected

that the issue will be shelved

for the time being.

Outside the Catholic com-

munity, few Americans will be-

lieve in the truth of the old

adage "Qui mange du Pape,

en meurt," but another con-

sideration may prevail in the

long run. In the present align-

ment of political forces, the

United States has become the

supreme protagonist on the

anti-Communist front, matched

in intrusiveness by only one

other power — precisely the

Vatican. It seems not unlikely

that President Truman's still-

bore decision was prompted by

the desire to join forces with

this formidable ally.

NO class of men can ever

become or remain impor-

tant unless they make up their

minds. What it is they have

to make up

DEMURRING their minds

about can vary within a wide

range of sub-

jects — it hardly matters at

all. A more or less enduring

record in world history has

been given to those who main-

tain the world to be flat, and

to others who assert that the

English are one of the lost

tribes of a certain people —

who might be indeed astonish-

ed to recognize Winston Ben

Winston wearing a new fur

hat. It is parties with clear

cut programmes such as these

who have no difficulty, aid in

fast lose no time, in elbowing

the indecisive out of the news.

But there come seasons, of

excitement and crisis, when

there is a change in the status

of the wobbly minded, and a

new lustre shines out from the

clouds. Then it is that he or

she is caught up in a current

of power flattered by political

leaders, investigated by editors,

and named in every conversa-

tion as the Floating Voter.

The title, let it be confessed,

does not sound altogether im-

pressive; a kind of hollow

boom suggests mental vacuity.

Moreover, the importance of

any vote, whether predictable

or not, lasts only until Polling

Day. Then the ship of politics

drops the floating one in stag-

nant waters until the next

election, and hardly anybody

will care whether he floats

face up or down.

Candidates' Role In Today's Elections

By PATRICK O'DONOVAN

LONDON—

THERE are 1,376 people in Britain who would like to put M.P. after their names and buy lunch in the Gothic dining rooms of Westminster. That at least is the number of candidates standing in today's British election. Only 625 of them can be successful.

One of their number is a young man called Peter Rawlinson who is standing for the first time. Like the vast majority of his fellow candidates he is unknown to the columns of the national Press. He is 36, a lawyer just beginning to taste success. He was a company commander during the war. His manners are easy and still faintly military. He looks a typical Young Tory with progressive views, which is precisely what he is. He photographs admirably.

Hackney's History

It is, however, unlikely that he will be a member of the next House. He is standing in South Hackney, one of the poorer districts of East London. It has an electorate of over 70,000 that last time gave the Labour Member a majority of over 20,000.

Communist Candidate

He has become quite a name in Britain's political life. It was once the seat of Herbert Morrison, now Foreign Minister, and it is the scene of a series of shabby little Saturday night riots between Communists and remnants of Mosley's Jew-hating Fascists.

Candidates have lost their importance in Britain. The electors will vote for the party programme, rather than for the man. So this small whirlwind campaign is almost old-fashioned. But it is a good thing to see the candidate and his wife sitting on the top of a car, waving huge blue rosettes, waving to bus queues who wave back, pressing leaflets into strangers' hands, talking until their voices are reduced to whispers, fighting for what they believe and sticking most carefully to the rules of the fight. Everyone, with the possible exception of the Communists, seems to enjoy it.

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JERUSALEM LANDMARK DEMOLISHED



Formerly a Jerusalem landmark, part of the Hotel Post in old Jerusalem, the new hotel situated above it, demolished. Close to the tower, it was damaged during the War of Liberation. The "Tower of David" can be seen at left and also the Church of the Ascension on Mt. Zion. In the foreground, behind a crude safety net, branches are being brought down from the building and will be used for accommodation at the Talpiot moshava. Photo by Hirshman

Diverting the Arab League

By GEORGE LICHTHEIM,
POST Correspondent

LONDON.—

EVEN without an election campaign to confuse the issue, the clash with Egypt would have made headlines here. The disclosure that British troops took control of the Suez Canal from the Egyptians came as a pleasant surprise, especially since Mr. Morrison had just delivered an election broadcast — described as "a remarkable performance" by the usually friendly "Manchester Guardian" — which made play with Labour's abhorrence of all such actions. There has also been satisfaction at the relatively firm support received from America. Yet all this is surface matter. The real debate on the course of British policy in the Middle East continues, and no clear direction is yet in sight.

One of the issues underlying the debate is touched upon in this week's "Economist." In an article devoted to the workings of major Government departments, the comment is made that the Foreign Office as such, i.e. considered as an organization, is "in a bad way" and has in recent years been consistently wrong in its advice to the Cabinet on Middle Eastern and Far Eastern affairs. That is rare for this kind of criticism to be voiced in Britain, and significant that it should have been made by the "Economist" whose ties with official hierarchy are close. There is genuine dissatisfaction, at any rate in the City, with the Foreign Office's handling of the situation. Air Vice-Marshal Yool suggests that if the Egyptians put themselves dramatically in the wrong by attacking British troops or failing to protect British nationals from the mob, they will invite drastic counter-measures, "indeed possibly temporary re-occupation of Cairo." This would be in line with popular Conservative sentiment, but is not likely to happen. There are influential circles here and in Cairo who fundamentally prefer "Arab orientation" to any other. It is significant that the "Economist" this week tries again to tell Americans that Arab League hostility is really directed against Israel, and that it is this which holds it together. This is the kind of thing "experts" need to believe in order to assuage wounded self